

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: MORAN

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN

A. JUAN CARLOS' CURRENT THINKING

THE COUNT OF MOTRICO TOLD AMBASSADOR STABLER OCTOBER 25  
THAT ON FRANCO'S DEATH THE COUNCIL OF THE REGENCY WILL  
ACT AS HEAD OF STATE UNTIL JUAN CARLOS' INSTALLATION AS  
KING FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF LYING IN STATE. JUAN  
CARLOS:

--DOUBTS MOST WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL DISPATCH  
HIGH LEVEL MOURNERS, BUT HOPES THEY AND THE US WILL  
SEND CHIEFS OF STATE OR NEXT RANKING OFFICIALS TO  
THE SUBSEQUENT CEREMONIES;

--PRESENTLY INTENDS TO APPOINT A CIVILIAN AS PRIME

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MINISTER AND A MILITARY MAN AS VICE PRESIDENT;

--RECEIVED WORD THAT DON JUAN WILL GIVE HIM QUIET MORAL AND PERSONAL SUPPORT BUT WOULD WITHOLD POLITICAL BACKING UNTIL HE SAW WHAT CONCRETE STEPS HIS SON WAS TAKING TOWARD DEMOCRACY;

--MET WITH MILITARY LEADERS OCTOBER 24 TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE WAS NOW TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND TO RECONFIRM THEIR LOYALTY.

B. A SOCIALIST'S HOPES FOR THE POST-FRANCO PERIOD

IN AN OCTOBER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER, SOCIALIST WORKER PARTY LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ QUESTIONED JUAN CARLOS' RESOLVE IN IMMEDIATELY BREAKING WITH THE FORCES OF THE RIGHT AND LEADING SPAIN TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY SANGUINE ON PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION, GONZALEZ OPINED THAT:

--JUAN CARLOS PROBABLY WILL OPT FOR A POLICY OF TIGHTLY CONTROLLED EVOLUTION TOWARD AN EVENTUAL DEMOCRACY--THE OPTION THAT CARRIES THE GREATEST RISK OF DISRUPTION BY THE ULTRA-RIGHT.

--A LEGALIZED COMMUNIST PARTY COULD BE CONTROLLED WHEN A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC/SOCIALIST LEFT CAME TO DOMINATE A TRULY FREE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS (THE CLASSIC SOCIALIST POSITION).

--THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE A LIBERAL MILITARY MAN WITH INFLUENCE AND CREDIBILITY IN BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CIRCLES, AND SHOULD DISMANTLE A NUMBER OF FRANCO-ERA ORGANIZATIONS TO SHOW DOUBTERS HIS FORCEFULNESS AND COMMITMENT TO CHANGE.

--THE US SHOULD MAKE KNOWN ITS DESIRE FOR A RAPID TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, SINCE A SIZABLE SEGMENT OF SPANISH OPINION IS IN DOUBT ABOUT US PREFERENCES.

(CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7477, 10/25 (EXDIS) AND

(CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7481, 10/26.

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2. SAUDI ARABIA

A. WARNS US ON ARMS FOR EGYPT

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN TOLD AMBASSADOR AKINS HE WAS SUPRISED TO READ OF REPORTS THAT THE US WOULD BE UNABLE TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT

UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT US ELECTIONS. SULTAN WARNED THAT  
IF THE SALES DO NOT GO THROUGH:

--SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT  
EGYPT, "NO MATTER WHERE IT TURNS."

--SADAT'S POSITION WOULD BE SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED  
BY OUR REFUSAL TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH ARMS NOW.  
(SECRET) JIDDA 7187, 10/26 (EXDIS).

B. APPROVAL FORTHCOMING FOR US ARMS PACKAGE TO  
YEMEN

PRINCE SULTAN RESPONDED TO AMBASSADOR AKINS' REPORT OF  
YEMENI CONCERN THAT THE SAUDIS ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET  
ON THE ISSUE OF A US ARMS PACKAGE BY GIVING ASSURANCES  
THAT THE SAUDIS ARE NOW PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THE  
PROJECT. THE ARMS PACKAGE, WHICH SULTAN DESCRIBED AS  
"VERY LITTLE INDEED," WILL BE APPROVED FOLLOWING YEMENI  
GENERAL GHAMSHI'S VISIT TO RIYADH, AND THERE WILL PROB-  
ABLY BE A REQUEST FOR MORE US ARMS FOR THE YEMEN.  
(SECRET) JIDDA 7188, 10/26.

3. ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION: STRONG PUBLIC REACTION IN  
BRAZIL

EMBASSY BRASILIA REPORTS THAT THE BRAZILIAN VOTE FOR THE  
UN ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION HAS EVOKED VEHEMENT MEDIA  
COMMENT, WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN UNIFORMLY AND SHARPLY  
NEGATIVE. THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT:

--THE FINAL DECISION FOR THE VOTE WAS MADE NOT BY  
THE FOREIGN MINISTER BUT BY THE PRESIDENT.

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--THE ISRAELIS, WHICKE "PAINFULLY SURPRISED" AT THE  
BRAZILIAN VOTE, WERE MORE CONCERNED BY THE MEXICAN  
AND CHILEAN VOTES, SINCE ISRAEL HAS REFRAINED FROM  
CRITICIZING THE CHILEANS' HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND  
MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA RECENTLY VISITED  
ISRAEL. (UNCLASSIFIED) BRASILIA 9298, 10/24.

4. SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN MINISTER FORESEES RATIONAL  
OUTCOME

MOROCCAN MINISTER OF COOPERATION BENHIMA TOLD ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY ATHERTON THAT IT IS PROBABLE THAT MOROCCO WILL  
MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH  
SPAIN. HOWEVER, THE MARCH WILL HAVE TO PROCEED, PERHAPS

REDUCED TO A "SYMBOLIC" REPRESENTATION, WITH THE REST OF THE MARCHERS REMAINING ON THE MOROCCAN SIDE OF THE BORDER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BENHIMA INTIMATED THAT THE DECISION FOR THE MARCH WAS MADE IN EARLY OCTOBER AND WAS KEPT A SECRET BY ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. (SECRET) RABAT 5170, 10/25.

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5. AZORES INDEPENDENCE DRIVE MOVES AHEAD DELIBERATELY

CONSULATE PONTA DELGADA COMMENTS THAT THE JUNTA REGIONAL HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN TWO MONTHS MORE THAN ANYONE EXPECTED. IT IS WELL ON THE WAY TO ESTABLISHING STRONG DE FACTO AUTONOMY. AMONG ITS CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THE JUNTA HAS:

--GAINED AZOREAN CONTROL OF THE BANKING SYSTEM, A MAJOR STEP IN ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC AUTONOMY;

--ESTABLISHED A REGIONAL PLANNING SYSTEM, WHICH MAY HELP DISSOLVE INTER-ISLAND DIFFERENCES WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

SEVERAL FLA LEADERS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY LISBON THAT INDEPENDENCE, WHILE INEVITABLE, IS UNLIKELY SOON. THE FLA SECRET

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IS PURGING ITS EMBARRASSING RIGHTWING ZEALOTS AND ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A EUROPEAN, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6318, 10/25 (EXDIS) AND (CONFIDENTIAL) PONTA DELGADA 413, 10/24. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MORNING SUMMARY, ZIONISM, AZORES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE254931  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O: MORAN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750372-0937  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SSO  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchantr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by buchantr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, MASS, PBOR, PDEV, SP, SA, US, EG, BR, SS, MO, PO  
**To:** JCS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006